(d) what are the future expansion plans of each of the exchanges; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to form or to convert the Madras Telephones into a Corporation like Bombay and Delhi, if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The capacity of each Telephone Exchange in Madras City as on 31-12-1988 is given in Annexure-I [*See* Appendix CXLIX, Annexure No. 27].

(b) Details are given in Annexure-II [*See* Appendix CXLIX, Annexure No. 28].

(c) The waiting list as on 31-12-1988 in each exchange category-wise is given in Annexure-III [*See* Appendix CXLIX, Annexure No. 29].

(d) The expansion programme of each exchange is given in Annexure-I.

(e) There is no proposal for the formation of new Mahanagar Telephone Nigams at present.

Post Offices in rural areas of Orissa

636. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open post offices in rural areas in Orissa during the remaining period of the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) The proposals for opening of new post offices are being processed.

Revision of pay scales of Telecommunication Technicians

637. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have withdrawn the recognition and the Trade Union facilities from the Bhartiya Telecommunication Technicians Union since September, 1988; if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government had assured in March, 1988 the pay scales of Rs.1320-2040 for Technicians and Rs.1600-2600 for Technical Supervisors and had also agreed to finalise the same within six weeks; if so, what are the reasons for not implementing the decision so far;

(c) what is the estimated cumulative financial loss on account of the tool down, work-to-rule and other strikes of these technicians from February, 1988 onwards; and

(d) whether there is any proposal for reconciliation in the matter of revision of their pay scales and promotional avenues; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes Sir, the recognition was withdrawn on 12-9-88 due to the following reasons:—

(i) They launched an illegal agitation while ESMA was in force.

(ii) The demand for revision of pay scales was not justified as the Pay Commission examined these issues recently; and

(iii) The agitation was not justified as Conciliation Proceedings were in progress and they were explained the action being taken.

(b) No assurance was given to the effect that Pay Scales of Rs. 1320-2040 for Technicians and Rs. 1640-2600 for Technical Supervisors would be implemented.